

**10/590746**

## STAPLER WITH ADAPTER

The present invention relates to a stapler with adapter, and in particular to a stapler which allows to adapt the ejection chamber of a stapler to the size and the shape  
5 of the staples and/or nails to be ejected.

EP-A-911120 discloses a stapler comprising a main body which includes a seat for a row of staples which are urged by a pusher toward an ejection head, in which a striker can run for pushing and ejecting from the ejection head the first staple of the row. Said stapler is provided with an adapter which can shift laterally in said seat for  
10 adapting the stapler to the width of the staples to be ejected.

However, said adapter does not allow to adapt the stapler also to the thickness, i.e. the depth, of the staples to be ejected, as well as to the use of nails with or without a head instead of the staples.

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a stapler which is free  
15 from said disadvantages, i.e. a staple which can be adapted to staples and/or nails having a variable size and shape. Said object is achieved with a stapler, the main features of which are disclosed in the first claim and other features are disclosed in the subsequent claims.

Thanks to its particular mobile plate, the stapler according to the present invention  
20 allows to employ staples and/or nails having a variable thickness. Furthermore, said mobile plate is preferably provided with a lateral notch which allows also the use of nails without head, which are contained laterally by the mobile plate for being correctly guided during their ejection.

According to a particular aspect of the invention, the mobile plate can run in a  
25 direction substantially parallel to the run direction of the striker and is connected to a slider arranged in the front portion of the main body of the stapler, so as to simplify its manufacture, working and use. Said slider preferably comprises a particular locking mechanism which prevents the accidental sliding of the mobile plate.

Furthermore, the striker and the mobile plate have particular sizes suitably studied  
30 for adapting the stapler according to the present invention to the majority of the staples and the nails available in the market.

Further advantages and features of the stapler according to the present invention will become clear to those skilled in the art from the following detailed and non-limiting description of two embodiments thereof with reference to the attached drawings, wherein:

- 5     – figure 1 shows an exploded partial view of a stapler according to the first embodiment of the invention;
- figure 2 shows a partial sectioned lateral view of the stapler of figure 1;
- figure 3 shows a front view of the stapler of figure 1;
- figure 4 shows a first front view of a stapler according to the second embodiment of
- 10    the invention;
- figure 5 shows a first partial sectioned top view of the stapler of figure 4;
- figure 6 shows a second partial sectioned top view of the stapler of figure 4;
- figure 7 shows a second front view of the stapler of figure 4;
- figure 8 shows a third partial sectioned top view of the stapler of figure 4;
- 15    – figure 9 shows a fourth partial sectioned top view of the stapler of figure 4;
- figure 10 shows a first rear view of the slider of the stapler according to the present invention;
- figure 11 shows a view sectioned along plane XI-XI of the slider of figure 10;
- figure 12 shows a first front view of the slider of figure 10;
- 20    – figure 13 shows a second rear view of the slider of figure 10;
- figure 14 shows a view sectioned along plane XIV-XIV of the slider of figure 10;
- figure 15 shows a second front view of the slider of figure 10.

Referring to figures 1 to 3, it is seen that the stapler according to the first embodiment of the invention comprises in a known way a main body 1 which includes a

25    seat 2 for a row of metal staples 3 which are urged by a pusher 4 toward an ejection head 5. A striker 6 connected to a mechanic and/or electric driving mechanism (not shown in the figures) can run in a vertical direction (indicated with an arrow in figure 1) substantially perpendicular to the feed direction of the row of metal staples 3 in seat 2 for pushing downwards and ejecting from the ejection head 5 the first metal staple 3 of

30    the row.

According to the invention, a mobile plate 7 is mechanically connected to a slider

8 which protrudes outside the main body 1 so that by moving downwards slider 8 the mobile plate 7 can slide in the main body 1 in a direction substantially parallel to the run direction of striker 6 for being arranged (as illustrated in figures 2 and 3) between the ejection head 5 and the striker 6 when the latter pushes the metal staple 3 arranged in the ejection head 5. Therefore, when the mobile plate 7 is lowered, the first metal staples 3 hits against the mobile plate 7 instead of the front wall of the ejection head 5. In the present embodiment, the mobile plate 7 is mechanically connected to slider 8 by means of a pin 9 (indicated with a broken line in figure 3) housed in corresponding holes made in the mobile plate 7 and in slider 8.

10 The main body 1 preferably comprises two half-bodies 1a, 1b which are mutually joined along a substantially vertical symmetry plane which crosses striker 6 and seat 2. Slider 8 can slide in a guide 10 made in the front wall of half-bodies 1a, 1b, so that pin 9 crosses an opening formed of two opposing notches made in the two half-bodies 1a, 1b.

Referring to figures 4 to 9, it is seen that in a second embodiment of the invention, the mobile plate 7 is preferably shaped to obtain a notch 11 along at least one side edge thereof, so that the width of the mobile plate 7 is smaller than the seat for the metal staple 3 in the ejection head 5. Figures 4 to 6 show the mobile plate 7 lifted for employing metal staples 3 having a normal thickness or nails with head 12. Figures 7 to 9 show instead the mobile plate 7 lowered for employing metal staples 13 having a reduced thickness or nails without head 14. As it is clearly shown in figure 9, the nails without head 14 are located inside notch 11 and thus are laterally contained by the mobile plate 7.

Referring to figures 10 to 15, it is seen that slider 8 comprises a particular locking mechanism which includes two flexible arms 15 which are made in a single piece, for example of plastic, with the body of slider 8 and are provided with teeth 16 protruding from the sides of the same slider. An expander 17 can slide in a guide 18 made in the central body of slider 8 in a vertical direction equal to the sliding direction of slider 8 in guide 10 of the main body 1, so that expander 17, during its sliding from a position to the other in guide 18, expands outwards the flexible arms 15. Guide 10 of the main body 1 is provided with side cavities (not visible in the figures), in which teeth 16 of the flexible arms 15 can hook, so that when the latter are expanded outwards by expander

17, slider 8 cannot slide in the same guide 10. Expander 17 is provided with a pin 19 crossing an opening 20 made in the middle of slider 8, so that it can be moved by a user with respect to slider 8. Hole 21 for pin 9 which mechanically connects slider 8 to the mobile plate 7 is made in the rear wall of slider 8. Two flexible arms 22 which are made in a single piece, for example of plastic, with the body of expander 17 are provided with teeth 23 protruding from the sides of the same expander for penetrating into corresponding cavities 24 made at the sides of guide 18 of slider 8, so that expander 17 can be partially locked in its extreme lower and/or upper positions. Figures 10 to 12 and 13 to 15 show slider 8 with the flexible arms 15 in a retracted and expanded position.

10 The thickness of striker 6 is preferably lower than 0,8 mm, while its width is comprised between 10 and 12 mm. The thickness of the mobile plate 7 is preferably lower than 0,5 mm, while its width is comprised between 9 and 12 mm. With these sizes, it is possible to employ metal staples 3, 13 having a thickness comprised between 0,7 and 1,3 mm, or nails 12, 14 having a width comprised between 0,9 and 2,1 mm.

15 Obviously, the above described adjusting mechanism can be applied to the staplers with the anvil for clinching the metal staples, as well as to the staplers lacking in this member, which are also known with the name *tacker*.

Further modifications and/or additions may be made by those skilled in the art to the hereinabove described and illustrated embodiments of the invention, while remaining within the scope of the same invention.

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